30

POL 14 VIET S
953

Department of State TELEGRAM

UNCLASSIFIED

R

Saigon 4642
9-1-61

PAGE 01 SAIGON 04642 011150Z

44
ACTION EA 19

INFO NSCE 00 CIAE 00 SSO 00 DODE 00 USIE 00 NSAE 00 CCO 00 SAL 01

EUR 25 IO 21 SP 02 SS 35 GPM 03 SC 01 NSC 10 RSC 01 P 04 INR 07

SAH 03 L 03 H 02 AID 30 RSR 01 /168 W

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Lyaburg DATE 12/23/81
EO ☐ [illegible] ☐
B [illegible] ☑
E [illegible]
PA or FOI EXEMPTION B

P 010750Z SEPT 61
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5837
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4035
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2354

UNCLAS SAIGON 4642

per 14 Viets

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJECT: NATIONAL ELECTIONS; POLLING PLACES

REF: STATE 29832

SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT THERE WILL BE 8,802 POLLING PLACES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 3 NATIONAL ELECTIONS. EACH POLLING PLACE WILL HAVE TWO BALLOT BOXES, ONE FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL-VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS AND THE OTHER FOR THE UPPER HOUSE RACE. THERE ARE TO BE AT LEAST SIX CURTAINED BOOTHS FOR VOTERS AT EACH POLLING PLACE.
BUNKER

(1)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

~~Confidential~~ ACTION

EA-8

RM/R	REP	A-?
1		
ARA	EUR	FE
NEA	CU	INR 5
E	P 2	IO 5
OPR/M 2	FBO	AID 12
T/PM 1	S/S 15	S/P 1
AGR	COM	FRB
INT	LAB	TAR
TR	XMB	AIR 5
ARMY 3	CIA 20	NAVY 5
OSD 33	USIA 10	NSA 3
NH-K 3		NSC 6

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

AIRGRAM

20

954

POL 14 VIETS

XR AID (US) VIETS

FOR RM USE ONLY

172 NO. | UNCLASSIFIED | HANDLING INDICATOR

TO : DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Action assigned to VN

Action Taken NOTED

Date of Action 10/4/67

Action Officer EAIN

FROM : AmEmbassy SAIGON DATE: September 1, 1967

SUBJECT : Resume of Briefings for US Election Observers Group on August 30, 1967

REF : Saigon 4462

Remarks: just the 22 presidentially-appointed groups — see p. 9

Following are resumes of briefings given U. S. election observer group on August 30. Verbatim text of Ambassador Bunker's remarks sent reftel.

JOHN NEGROPONTE and HARRY DUNLOP, Embassy Political Officers, on General Political Situation:

Government in Vietnam has traditionally and basically been authoritarian, while opposition has been clandestine and revolutionary, whether under Chinese domination, native empire, French occupation or even the Diem Regime.

Even so, there was a constitution framed and elections held under Diem. Since he was overthrown in November, 1963, there have been five unsuccessful attempts to return to constitutional rule.

These were: the Council of Notables, which got near to framing a new constitution, the High National Council, the "Vung Tau Charter," the National Legislative Council and, finally, the military convention of June, 1965, which led to the Armed Forces Council. These attempts generally failed in the face of Buddhist opposition and military disappointment in what appeared to be a lack of results due to civilian squabbling.

The elections of a year ago changed that. In six months, the constituent assembly framed a constitution and stayed on as a provisional assembly pending elections for a lower house in October.

67 SEP 12 PM 1 01 CSTYLO-FBR

FORM 4-62 DS-323

UNCLASSIFIED

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY ☑ In ☐ Out

Drafted by: PJordan PJ

Contents and Classification Approved by: JUSPAO/BZorthian

Clearances: JEMcGowan/Barry Zorthian